PT 2473 SCS

516

February 28, 1978

President Jimmy Carter
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I would like to commend to you highly the work of Reverend Jim Jones and the Peoples Temple. I first became acquainted with Jim Jones when he and his church came out early on behalf of my defense when I was in prison on charges for which I was later vindicated. This was at great risk to himself and his church, because my cause was not a popular one in church circles at that time. But I found on later personal contact with him, and to this day, that he is an ardent spokesman for justice who will speak out whenever he sees individuals or groups unjustly harassed or persecuted, whatever their race, background, or political persuasion. He is a humanitarian in the broadest sense of the word, who renders assistance often at great personal sacrifice, never concerned about what people think of his actions, but only that he is following the right course. He is a great champion of the poor and oppressed of our country, who has been able to organize and mobilize people to struggle for the racial equality and social justice which is our only insurance of freedom in the days to come.

You cannot realize how fortunate you are to have Rev. Jones spearhead his agricultural project in the Third World. He communicates with great sensitivity to Third World peoples, and his commitment to alleviating human suffering can hardly be matched. I am certain his intentions are of the best, and he will be a potent influence for good in strengthening America's relationship with that area of the hemisphere.

I understand efforts are underway to influence Congressmen to exert pressure on the State Department to intervene in a court matter under local Guyanese jurisdiction. This would be a foolhardy move, both from the standpoint of the best interests of the United States, and would surely antagonize the Guyanese, who are very competent to handle the matter, and the many thousands of Peoples Temple members and supporters here in the United States who are prepared to stand by Rev. Jones.

I urge you to give this matter your utmost consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Angela Y. Davis

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE _____
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____